



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.

Mitákuyepi



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like **Foster Iversen, Mike Hosek and Nick**

Parent, grounds keepers and unsung heroes of the sod and shrub, who do so much to keep our campus beautiful.

This employee newsletter is named Mitákuyepi because it speaks the mission of St. Joseph's Indian School. Mitákuyepi is a Lakota word used to say, "my relatives." Also, it is the address to an audience that means, "I have something to say." This is the voice of our thiyóšpaye.

Its masthead has a backdrop of sacred sage to remind us that our work is Wakháŋ.

PROBLEMS?
PLEASE LET US KNOW!
CHANGE LABEL AND MAIL BACK TO US.

- ___ Misspelled name
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- ___ Received more than one
- ___ Remove my name from the mailing list



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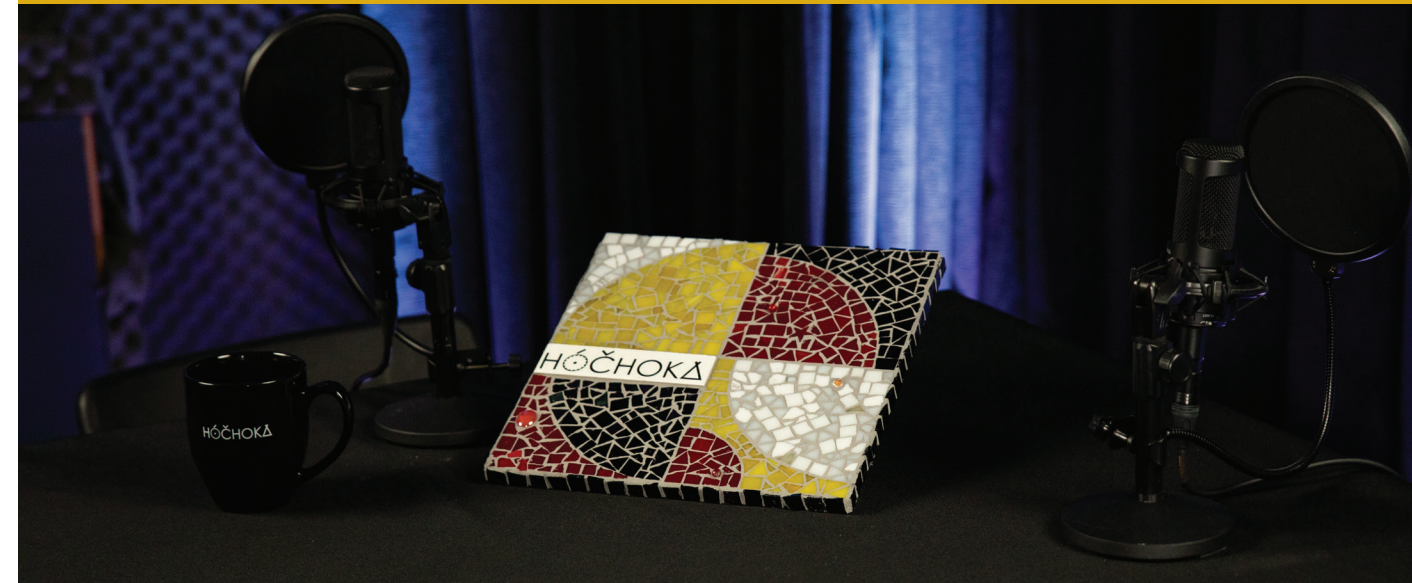


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SUMMER 2022

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 3



Welcome to Hóčhoka, Season 2

This past spring, St. Joseph's Indian School leaped into the medium of podcasting. Our goal in the endeavor is to showcase the people and ideas that make our school the special place our families tell us it is.

When the Communications Advisory Committee planned the endeavor, they said, "If even 25 people listen during the first season, that will be a decent measure of success." The website received some 2,500 podcast page views in the first season, and the podcast was downloaded nearly 800 times. To date, viewers and listeners continue to discover Hóčhoka as we launch Season 2.

All episodes were well received. Jennie Schilling's "Kid Whispering – New Skills for Navigating Life" had the most plays. Joseph Marshall's six-part series on Lakota cultural identity also was very successful.

Season 2 guests and topics:
▪ Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ, and a team of houseparents join us in a three-part series about the transition from dormitories to residences and the vital role of the houseparent.
▪ Dr. Damian Costello, a Catholic theologian specializing in Indigenous spiritual traditions and Director of Post Graduate Studies at NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community, provides fresh perspectives on Catholicism through an

Indigenous lens.

▪ Sičhángŋu Lakota author Joseph Marshall III speaks in a two-part series on Lakota Leadership. The series is capped by the school's Native American Studies Lead and Sičhángŋu Lakota LaRayne Woster on the Seventh Grade Cultural Trip that forms students into leaders at St. Joseph's Indian School.
▪ Makhá Black Elk and Fr. Mike Carson speak in a three-part series on Native American Boarding School Truth and Healing.
▪ Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ, Makhá Black Elk and Mission Integration Director Joe Tyrell explore the Dehonian, Lakota and Catholic spirit that inspires us.

The Lakota word Hóčhoka (emphasis on the first syllable) means the center of the camp circle. The name speaks to the actual location of the recording studio at the heart of campus, the centrality of the mission of St. Joseph's Indian School to all that we do, and the role of the podcast to be at the center of the Native American educational conversation and gather others around that conversation.

Why tune in to a podcast from St. Joseph's Indian School? Learn more about what the school has to offer. Listen to the wisdom of thought leaders on Native American education today. Laugh, hope, warm your heart and sharpen your mind at the center of the school's camp circle.

What Does "Back" Look Like at St. Joseph's Indian School?

When school kicks off, many adults get nostalgic remembering their brand new pencil cases, shiny new shoes, trusty backpacks and all of the other paraphernalia that accompanies the beginning of the school year. A set of new students, fourth grade twin boys, arriving on campus at St. Joseph's Indian School for the first time displayed their new ware with broad smiles, saying, "We are so excited."

On return day, "back-to-school" included being welcomed by the school's equine therapy horses. Students headed to the Dehon Health Center for a quick check-in and then went to their campus residences, where family members could enjoy a meal before returning home.

Some pandemic silver linings were part of back-to-school this year. During COVID-19, St. Joseph's had established the practices of setting aside a few days in the homes for students before school started to isolate illness and ensure safety. An unexpected finding was that providing

adjustment time to home and housemates helped students feel more comfortable and prepared for the academic year. So Monday was a day at home.

A second pandemic "Aha!" is the welcome back parade. When the pandemic forced an outdoors event, students greatly enjoyed it. This year, it became a third-annual event, rocking to the tune of Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me." Staff passed out friendship bracelets. Smudge wafted through the air and a horn blared greetings from the other side of campus. The bookmobile was on hand.

Wednesday morning of welcome-back week, a back-to-school prayer service topped off the settling in. The theme for the year is "Oceans of Possibilities." Each student submitted a goal for their future that is posted on a fish in the school hallway to illustrate the endless possibilities. Looks like someone wants Mike Tyrell's job.



LEAD STORY

Hóčhoka Season 2
Welcome Back



MISSION IN MOTION

Getting to Know Support Services



PEOPLE NEWS

Welcome Aboard
Powwow Open to Public



MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Sacred Sightings
Witness the Miracles



SACRED SIGHTINGS

Sacred Sightings is a pictorial celebration of God's presence and signs of hope at St. Joseph's Indian School.

SUMMER 2022 4

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

A Challenge to Witness the Miracles

Another new start to the school year is upon us. Students are back on campus with new sounds and an air of new energy. It's always an exciting time.

With the start of the school year, it's valuable to take stock of our staff. When we do this, we see a lot of dedicated individuals, some here for a long time and some relatively new. The backgrounds vary greatly, but the sense of doing quality work to further the mission continues.

As individuals and members of

the St. Joseph's Indian School team, we are obligated to provide quality programming and opportunities to the families and students with whom we partner. We are the bridge between the resources we generously receive and the services we provide. When we understand this and work together, miracles do happen. We see it here each and every day.

This year I challenge all of us employees to take a few minutes occasionally to witness those miracles. Some are big, like our building projects, but most are

small, even part of a regular routine. They start with the resources we generously receive and emanate through our staff. The results are the successes of our students, sometimes significant, like the first-time graduate in a family. Most often, though, they are part of that day-to-day, step-by-step commitment we all put forth that makes the mission of St. Joseph's Indian School real.

God Bless, and let's all have a great school year!



Mike Tyrell
President
St. Joseph's Indian School



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Mitákuyepi is PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL. ITS PURPOSE IS TO COMMUNICATE ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SCHOOL, TO SHARE IDEAS AND INFORMATION USEFUL IN PERFORMING THE MISSION, TO ASSIST IN FOSTERING A COMMON CULTURE AND TO REINFORCE THE MISSION AND CORE VALUES OF ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL.

QUESTIONS?

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For additional information about St. Joseph's Indian School, its outreaches and the Priests of the Sacred Heart visit:

www.sjiskids.org or
www.stjo.org

Getting to Know the New World of Support Services

Support Services is under the new leadership of **Director Rich Zelinski**. He takes on the task of synchronizing efforts that include Facilities (electricity, plumbing, HVAC, maintenance, electronics, painting, grounds keeping, carpentry, fleet), Food Services (Dining Hall and grocery) and Disbursement and Donations (Home and Office, purchasing, receiving, transport and the downtown Thrift Store.)

The new world order is an old idea whose time has come around again. As projects and the campus expanded, it became imperative to restructure. Rich was a houseparent for seven years before taking on this role, which is quite similar to what he did for about 15 years before becoming a houseparent. Rich infuses his work with a "can-do, totally possible" perspective.

Currently, some of the larger can-do projects are the horse barn, museum renovations, a significant new Rec Center extension, concrete repairs, heating units, extensive grounds keeping and renovations and an add-on office space for Facilities.

Up in Facilities, a team of 16 highly talented employees handle all tasks and projects. They are genuinely exceptional. They take care of emergencies and sometimes more than 50 service calls daily, then return to their projects.

The Maintenance garage takes care of all the fleet vehicles' repairs and special and routine maintenance. This includes all cars, trucks, Suburbans, buses, and maintenance equipment.

In Food Services, six employees take care of the grocery store, Dining Hall, food boxes and special events—a LOT to do for just a few people.

At the Thrift Store downtown and Home and Office Store, donations are received, dispersed and utilized to the maximum. This is another area of Support Services where people do a lot of other "little" things that we may take for granted.

Support Services takes care of our vast campus, hundreds of employees, dozens of buildings, production facilities, and miles of grounds, and these things only happen because a great group of people work together to get them done. The hundreds and hundreds of tasks, jobs, and requests take a real team. We are fortunate to have highly qualified and excellent staff in these roles.

And that is a glimpse into the newly orchestrated world of Support Services.



First Interstate Donates \$25,000

On August 11, First Interstate announced a \$25,000 gift to St. Joseph's Indian School through its Believe in Local Campaign. The campaign celebrates the bank's commitment to the communities it serves.

"We appreciate First Interstate's generosity and support," said Mike Tyrell, President. "This donation helps us to further our mission of educating and providing housing for Lakota children in need. We're thankful to have dedicated partners like First Interstate helping us to strengthen Native American communities."



Bookmobile Wraps Another Super Summer

The St. Joseph's Indian School Bookmobile wrapped up a busy summer on July 15. The outreach made stops in 43 communities, crisscrossing the state to serve nearly 1,500 children and adults. Fifty-six alumni visited with Alumni Liaison and Bookmobile Coordinator Andy Lepkowski and the crew.

In addition to Andy, many of the school's staff volunteered this year, several of them family service counselors hoping to connect with families and students. Jocelyn Limon and Myldred Hernandez-Gonzalez, undergraduates at the University of Notre Dame who participated in the six-week experience as a summer internship, also joined the crew.

The Bookmobile crew distributed a record 18,518 books, 1,800 of which were Native American books by Native American authors.



St. Joseph's Rising Eagle Day Camp Back with F-U-N
Rising Eagle Day Camp returned to the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School this summer after a two-year, pandemic-related hiatus. School staff and student counselors reveled in the return of the sound of children at play and the joyful energy they brought. The final week of camp started on June 20.

For the camp to take place, counselors make a 120-mile round-trip bus run to collect children from the Crow Creek Reservation (May 31 to June 10) and Lower Brule Reservation (June 13 to 24) who wait at stops for the camp bus.

A camp day consists of culture, arts and crafts, Lakota Language lessons, games, swimming and nutritious meals and snacks. Throw in a silly song and an antic or two, and it spells F-U-N.



"The Quilt" Is at the Aktá Lakota Museum

"The Quilt" opened the week of June 13 at the Aktá Lakota Museum. The new exhibit features quilts from 1893 to contemporary that are in the museum's private collection.

These quilts are a testament to the powerful tradition, aesthetic, artistry and resiliency of the Lakota culture. When the buffalo was at the center of Lakota life, beautifully decorated hides, often with striking circular patterns, were common. As colonialism brought about the near-extinction of the buffalo, the Lakota turned to quilt making to replace many of the functions — both utilitarian and ceremonial — that hides performed.

The star quilt appealed because of its circular pattern and rhythmic repetition. "Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle," said Lakota spiritual leader Black Elk, expressing the centrality of the circle to Lakota thought. Today the star quilt is often the centerpiece in Lakota celebrations and ceremonies.

The exhibit runs until October 31 and can be previewed on the museum's website.



St. Joseph's Marketing Department Wins Award

St. Joseph's Indian School's Integrated Marketing Department celebrated special recognition of its public service announcement (PSA), "More Than a School" this summer. The PSA won a Communicator Award of Excellence in the category Integrated Campaign Winner - Campaign-Non-Profit. It was one of only thirteen winners in this category. Entries are evaluated based on a standard of excellence in marketing and communications.

The Communicator Awards is dedicated to recognizing excellence, effectiveness and innovation across all areas of communication. The program receives almost 5,000 entries making it globally one of the most prominent award shows of its kind.



Aktá Lakota Museum Named

2022 Tripadvisor Traveler's Choice Winner
Tripadvisor recently named The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center a 2022 Traveler's Choice Award Winner. The award celebrates businesses that have received great traveler reviews from visitors from around the globe on Tripadvisor over the past 12 months.



Cindy and William Airhart are new to the houseparenting staff. William loves all food, whereas Cindy prefers Mexican or Chinese. Both agree that there should always be milk in the refrigerator. They are parents to nine children and grandparents to 17. They are excited about being a part of the mission of St. Joe's. Recently they enjoyed "Top Gun."



Logan Alman is the Museum Store Manager. When growing up, her favorite family activity was camping at a lake, boating, fishing and tubing. She is excited to be back in a school environment and to learn about Native American history.



Alayne Daly joins us from her summer internship to become the new Human Resources Associate. She keeps iced coffee on hand, perhaps the secret to her bright demeanor. Her family loves spending time together.



Rhonda Forshey of Data Entry says ice cream is a favorite. She enjoys camping and fishing with family. In her new role, she looks forward to helping people. Last movie: "Elvis."



Brock Frederick prefers chicken, pizza and steak and loves motorcycle rides. As a new Houseparent, he looks forward to opportunities to help students grow.



Doug Greene, new Mission Advocate, says lobster is his favorite food. You might catch him reading something by best-seller Michael Connelly in his spare time.



Connor Hanish joins the staff as a Software Developer. He keeps a stash of fresh oranges in the fridge. He likes to camp, golf, hike, ski, and snowboard in his free time.



Jill Larsen is Native Hope's Community Outreach Coordinator. She is married with four children and a dog; her favorite food is pizza. She is an outdoor buff in the warmer months.



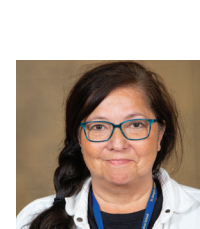
Kimberlee Lindner is in Production Support. She enjoys fishing, hunting and seeing family and grandchildren in her spare time. Tempt her with pizza. She is happy to be doing a job that keeps her moving.



JaTonne Marks is Native Hope's new Media Assistant. Another pizza fan, he likes to hang out with his brothers when they are all home. JaTonne plays the guitar and last watched "Sonic the Hedgehog." He is an alumnus.



Alyssa McQuirk is the new Fourth Grade Teacher. She and her dog, Rex, can often be found at the river. She is excited about beginning a new chapter in her professional career. Ask her for recommended reading in the category of mystery books. She last saw "The Bad Guys."



Cindy Molacek will likely be serving her favorites — homemade pizza and a "stellar salad" — to the residents of the home she'll be working in. She looks forward to creating a family environment and bringing out the best in each student.



Susan Ness, new Mission Advocate, and her husband have six children, fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. When she isn't keeping up with that gang, she reads, crochets and enjoys jigsaw puzzles. Susan last saw "Elvis." She appreciates a good serving of lasagna.



Don Salinas, Houseparent, likes pizza and chicken, video games and playing the guitar. He runs a business and rides motorcycles in his free time and last watched, "Where the Crawdads Sing."



Chase Savala, a new Houseparent, loves hot wings and snack cheese. He enjoys music, journaling, reading, and fishing in his free time. He looks forward to connecting with the students and learning about Native American culture. He last saw "Doctor Strange: Multiverse of Madness."



Sierra Shields grew up in the rodeo industry and looks forward to her new role as Houseparent. She still enjoys rodeos when she can. She camps, fishes and spends time with family. She always keeps pop, sandwiches and chips on hand and really appreciates a steak.



Tammy Sund came from a "pretty good-sized family" and says her two boys are her whole world. As a new Houseparent, she is excited about teaching life skills. Her favorite foods are pasta and bread.



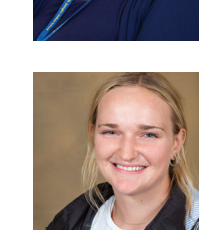
Courtney Thiry is the new Communications and Donor Relations Specialist at Native Hope. She likes fresh fruit and veggies and says, "If it's not raining, we're outside," when describing her family. She looks forward to learning Native history. In her free time she likes to go for walks, work on the farm and be with family.



Jessamy Truman heads up a Second Grade class starting this fall. She is fond of lasagna. She and her family enjoy time outdoors. She likes reading fishing and gardening. She says that everything about her new job interests her. She last saw "Jurassic World."



Kiah Turner is a Chicken Alfredo fan who looks forward to her new role as Houseparent working with children and being in a new place. She enjoys making baby blankets and last watched "The Blind Side."



Izzy Tyrell, new Houseparent, enjoys dill pickle chips and family bike rides. She likes to create art, exercise, and hang out with family and friends in her free time.

Powwow Opens to the Public

Some 90 students are practicing to dance in beautiful Native American regalia on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the 46th Annual St. Joseph's Indian School wachipi (powwow) in Chamberlain, S.D. For the first time since 2019, the event will be open to students, families, extended families, donors and visitors.

46th Annual St. Joseph's Indian School POWWOW
September 17, 2022 • Chamberlain, SD

OVER \$4,500 IN PRIZES!

ACTIVITIES ALL DAY!

9:00	11:00 AM	Open House at Student Homes and Chapel
10:30 AM	Noon	Powwow Registration
11:30	11:45	Grass Flattening
Now		Powwow Grand Entry
5:00 PM		Mass (Our Lady of the Sacred Chapel)
5:30 PM		Complimentary Meal and Prizes

No smoking, pets, camping or solicitation on campus.

Find schedule updates at stjo.org/powwow.

St. Joseph's Indian School • 46th Annual Powwow
PO Box 100 • Chamberlain, SD 57325-0100
1-800-584-9200 • www.stjo.org/powwow